

CLEAN COPY OF REPLACEMENT CLAIMSIN THE CLAIMS:

1. (amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:
at least one bundle, said at least one bundle comprising a plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers and a binder element;
said binder element maintaining the plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers in said at least one bundle;
a separation layer contacting a portion of said at least one bundle;
a cable jacket contacting said separation layer, wherein said separation layer inhibits adhesion between said at least one bundle and said cable jacket; and
said fiber optic cable excluding a grease or a grease-like composition being in contact with said at least one bundle for filling interstices of the cable thereby blocking water from flowing through the cable.

10. (amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:
at least one bundle, said bundle comprising a plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers and at least one binder thread encircling the plurality of optical fibers, thereby maintaining the plurality of optical fibers in the bundle;
a separation layer adjacent to and generally surrounding said at least one bundle;
a cable jacket contacting said separation layer, wherein said separation layer inhibits adhesion between said at least one bundle and said cable jacket; and
said fiber optic cable excluding a grease or a grease-like composition being in contact with said at least one bundle for filling interstices of the cable thereby blocking water from flowing through the cable.

16. (amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:

a central member;

at least one bundle, said at least one bundle comprising a plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers and a binder element;

said binder element maintaining said plurality of non-tight buffered optical fibers in said at least one bundle;

a cable jacket surrounding said at least one bundle;

a separation layer for inhibiting adhesion between said at least one bundle and said cable jacket, wherein said separation layer is adjacent to said at least one bundle; and

said fiber optic cable excluding a grease or a grease-like composition being in contact with said at least one bundle for filling interstices of the cable thereby blocking water from flowing through the cable.

23. (amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:

at least one bundle, said at least one bundle comprising a plurality of optical fibers and a binder element;

said binder element maintaining said plurality of optical fibers in said at least one bundle;

an armor layer surrounding said at least one bundle, wherein said armor layer is adjacent to said at least one bundle; and

said fiber optic cable excluding a cable jacket within said armor layer.